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Motorized Sun Block

Seven Lutron Sivoia QED motorized roller shades cover the 40-foot span of windows and doors to keep this kitchen cool. The low-voltage motors are recessed above the windows, where the shades disappear.

Stroll through this 19th-century New Jersey mansion once owned by the Astors—that's right, 19th century, as in grand staircases, rich woods, gold trim—until you arrive at ... what's this: a stunningly contemporary kitchen? No, we didn't place the wrong pictures with this article. This ultramodern kitchen and dining and family room area are part of a 5,000-square-foot addition to this mansion from the monied set. "The addition made this a very interesting installation," says Dave Randolph, vice president of engineering for EDG (Electronic Design Group) of Piscataway, NJ. "The homeowners tried to preserve everything they already had." Whole-house control and audio had to be completely hidden in the old part of the house, while some of the cutting-edge goodies are on display in the new wing.

In the kitchen and dining area, the family wanted a bank of floor-to-ceiling windows and sliding doors that was 40 feet long. Add a steel beam to span the length for



BIG IDEAS

structural support, and there's no problem—until the sun shines in. The solution was a Lutron Sivoia QED (Quiet Electronic Drive) motorized roller shading system. Seven shades stretch across the space, and the low-voltage motors are recessed into the header, where the shades disappear when opened.

There are two sliding doors for the kitchen and adjoining family and dining room, so the controls had to be flexible and easy to use, Randolph explains. There are up and down buttons for the kitchen windows, kitchen doors, family room windows and family room doors, in addition to all up and all down. Some are operable by buttons on a lighting control keypad in the hallway as one enters the kitchen, while more complicated control is reserved for the in-wall Crestron touchpanel.

"In this case, the shades need to work like a light switch, and people need to be able to walk in and operate it intuitively," says Randolph. To make it simple, and to make sure it didn't intrude on the family's lifestyle, the shades are not triggered by a timer or solar sensors, says Randolph.

Although the homeowners may not have intended it, the shades provide significant energy savings by keeping the room cooler in warm months.

In addition to the motorized shades, the family can control the Lutron lighting system, and they enjoy whole-house audio with three pairs of in-ceiling Sound Advance speakers made invisible by hiding behind a thin coat of plaster. And what contemporary addition would be complete without a flat-panel TV in the family room? **EH**

The Details

The elements that pull this space together



KICKIN' BACK The family room is served by a 50-inch Sony plasma TV and two pairs of invisible Sound Advance speakers that are located behind a skim coat of plaster in the ceiling but still sound through. The entertainment system is operated by a 5-inch wireless Crestron TPS-2000L touchpanel.



CONTROL CENTRAL The 12-inch Crestron TPS-4500LW in-wall touchpanel, programmable thermostat and Lutron lighting and shade keypad welcome guests to the modern age. The lighting keypad allows simple and quick operation of the area lights and shading.

SYSTEM DESIGN & INSTALLATION EDG (Electronic Design Group), Piscataway, NJ, www.edgonline.com